

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of March 30, 2005, Applicants' Assignee has elected provisionally, and with traverse, the invention addressed by claims 15-45 and designated by the Examiner as invention II. Additionally, Applicants' Assignee has elected provisionally, with traverse, the species of the invention shown in FIGS. 1-4B, and designated by the Examiner as Species 1. Species 1 is addressed by claims 15-16, 18-27, and 29-44.

It is to be noted that the claims which are directed to Species 1 of the invention include generic claims 21 and 23. Accordingly, upon allowance of either of claims 21 and 23 Applicants' Assignee is entitled to consideration of claim 28, which depends from both claim 21 and claim 23.

Applicants' Assignee traverses the requirement for restriction, since the product as claimed cannot be used in a materially different process, as recited by the Examiner, since the structure of the lock body and retainer determine whether and to what extent the retainer can be inserted into the lock body prior to inserting the lock body into the opening of the first and second members as addressed by the method claims 3 and 4. Additionally, it is to be noted that no such requirement for restriction was made in the parent of this application, in which claims 24-51, corresponding with claims 1-28 of this application were allowed. It is submitted that election between the method and apparatus claims in this application should not be required.

This response is filed within one month following the expiration of the initial shortened statutory period for response, and a Petition for Extension of Time is provided herewith, together with the fee required therefor.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is requested to examine and allow all of the claims of the application and to pass the application on promptly to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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